



# **Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services**

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## **Bureau Brief: Commission to Strengthen & Align Services to Veterans in Maine**

**Adria Horn  
Director, BVS**

**October 7, 2015**



# Agenda

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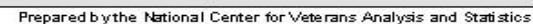
- **Veteran Statistics**
- **Bureau Overview**
- **Way Ahead**



# Bureau's Mission

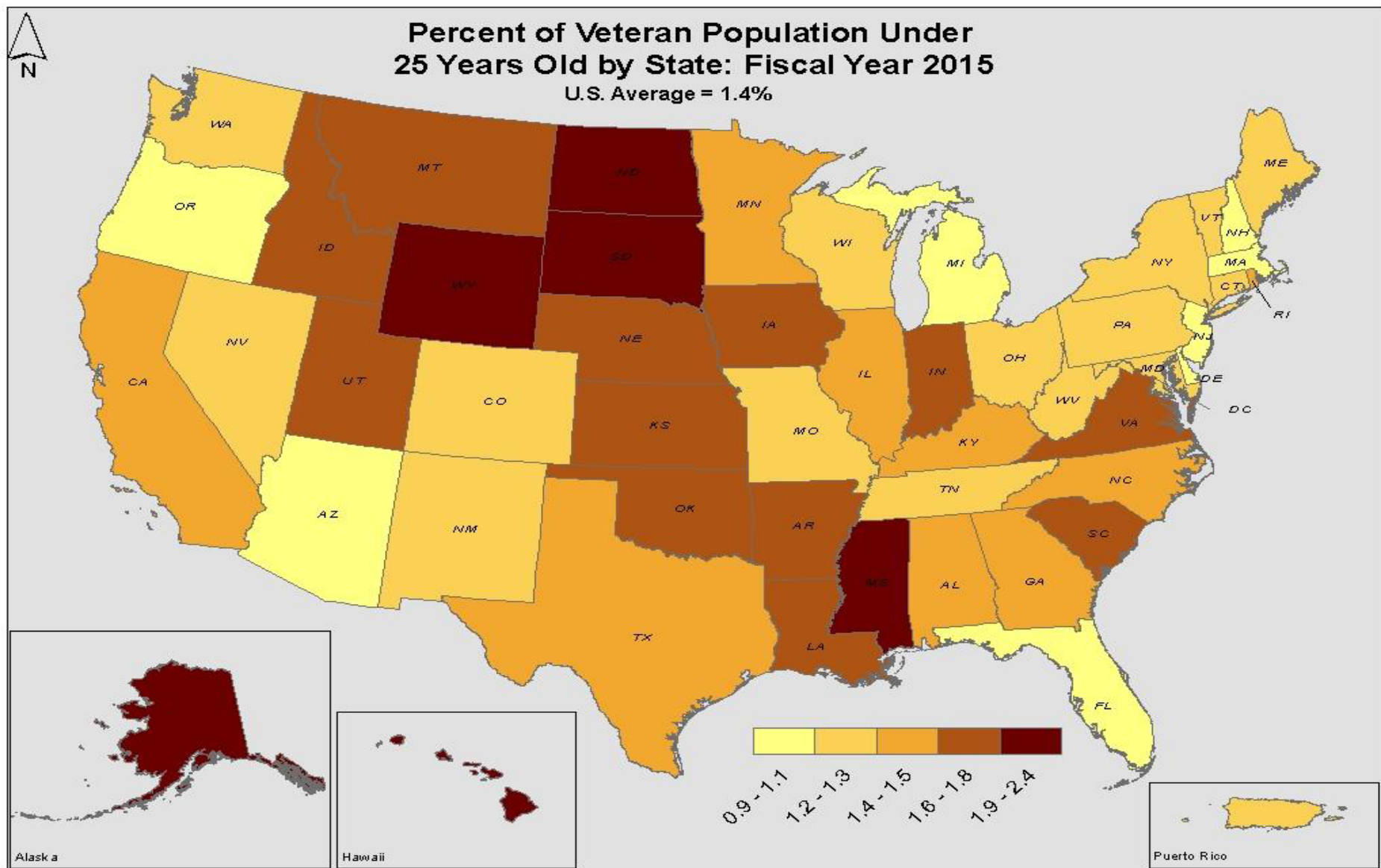
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- **Serve as the Primary Public Advocate for Maine Veterans**
- **Assist veteran and/or dependents in obtaining state and federal veterans benefits**
- **Oversee and operate the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System (4)**
- **Recognize the service and sacrifice of Maine veterans**





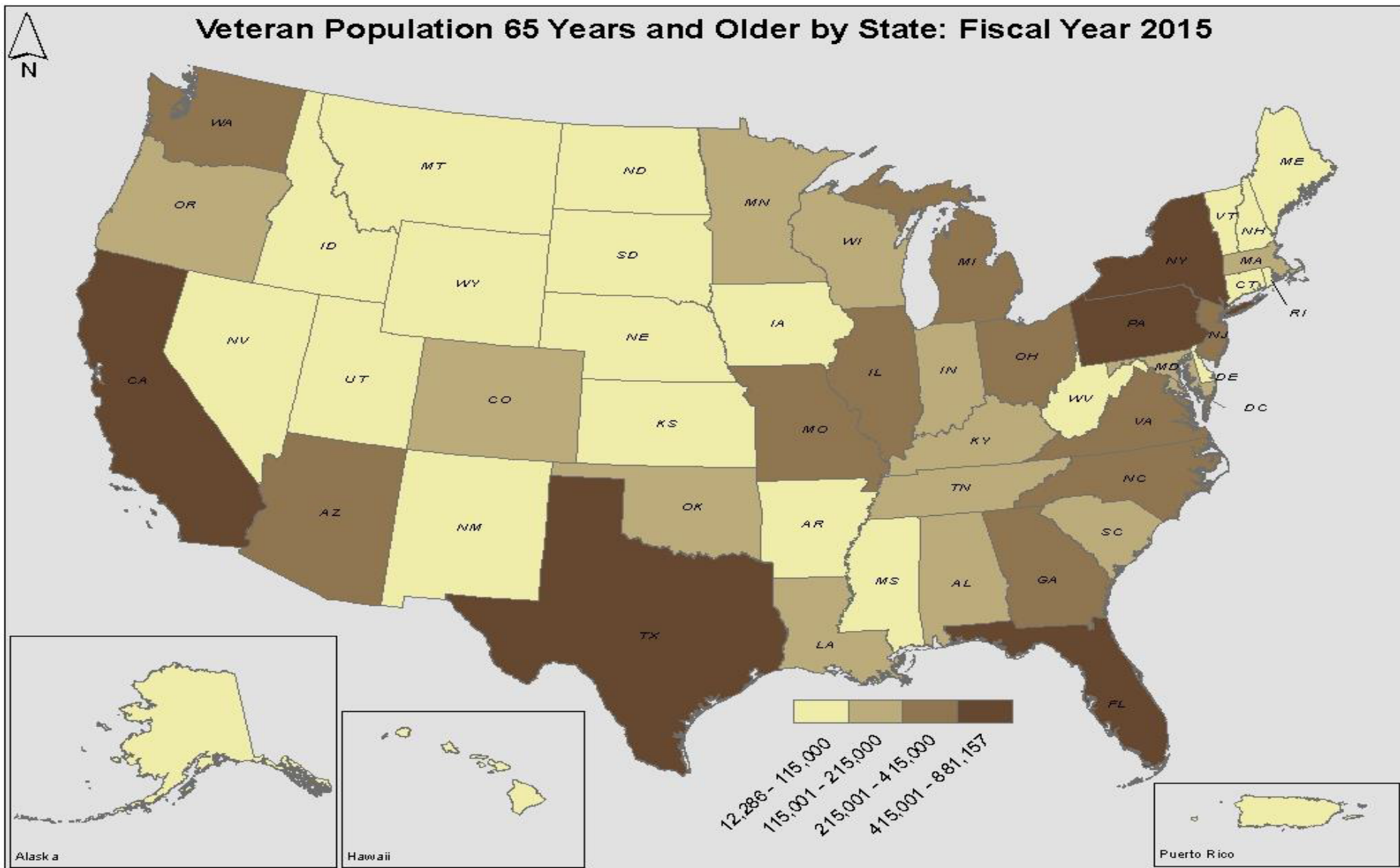
# Veteran Statistics





# Veteran Statistics

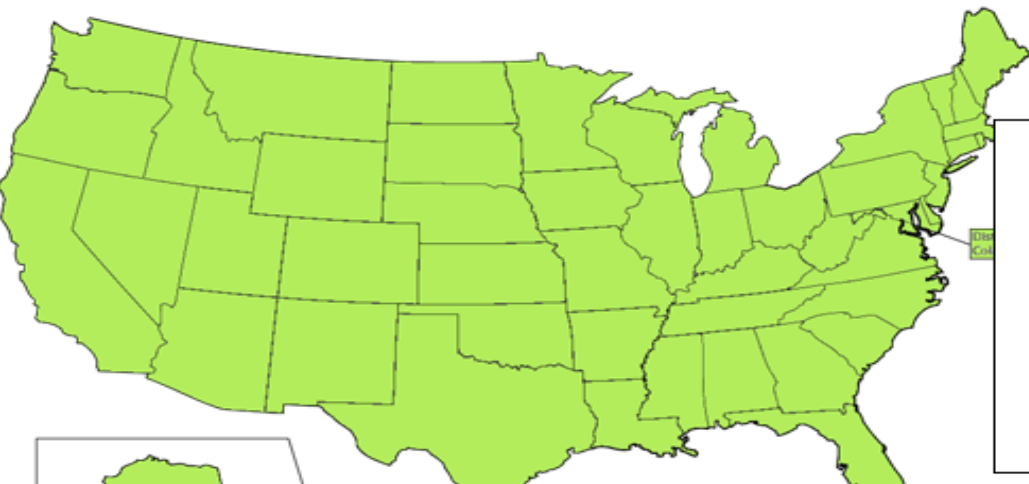
Veteran Population 65 Years and Older by State: Fiscal Year 2015





# Veteran Statistics

## Veteran Population



major characteristics between Veterans and non-Veterans by gender.

**September 24, 2015**, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released FY 2012

### Maine

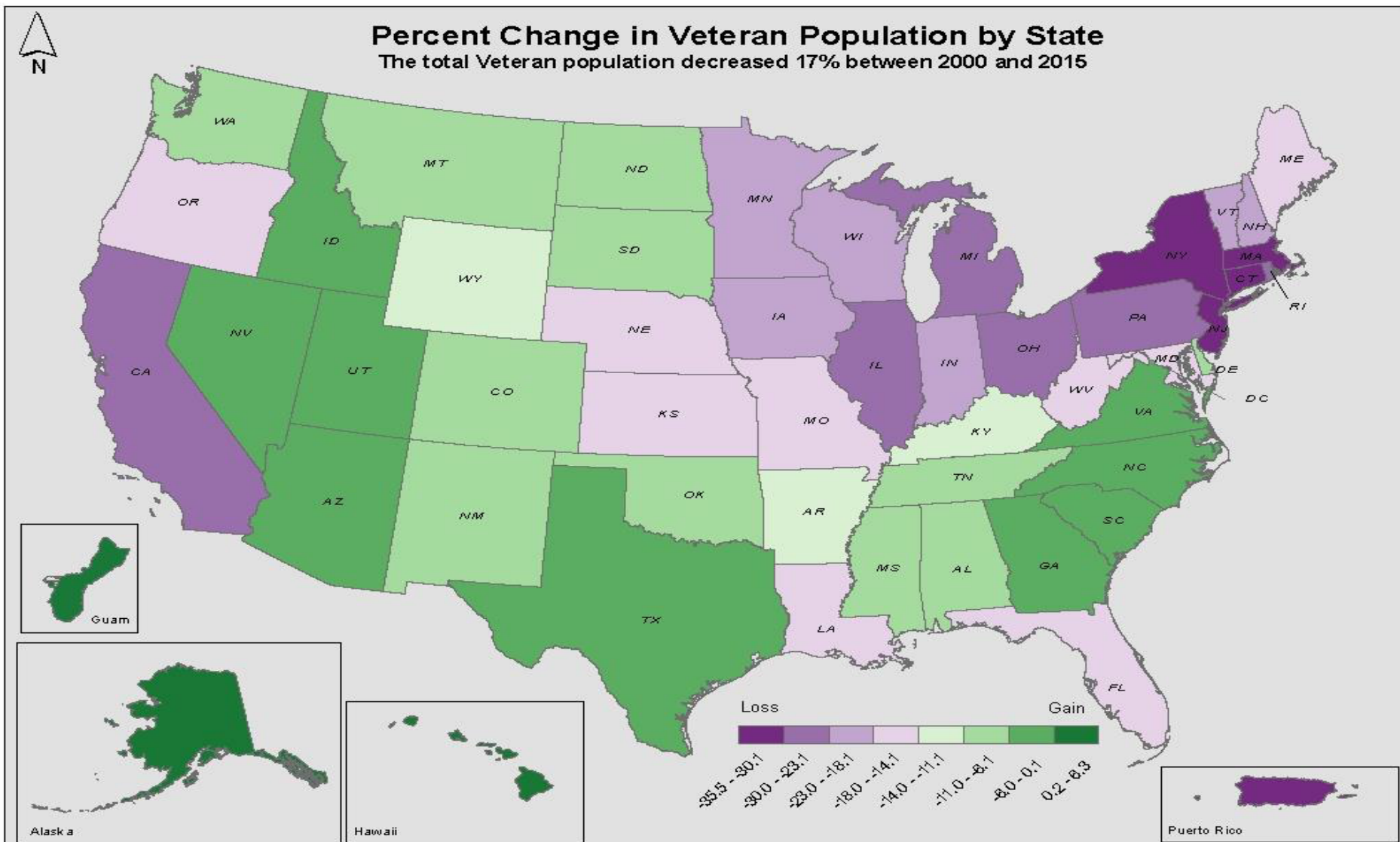
**Total:** 127,234  
**Wartime Veterans:** 94,604  
**Gulf War:** 35,478  
**Vietnam Era:** 44,836  
**Korean Conflict:** 11,836  
**World War II:** 6,340  
**Peacetime:** 32,630  
**Female:** 10,071  
**Male:** 117,163  
**Veteran Population as of 9/30/2014**  
*/Review tables for more details.*

Maine	<20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Grand Total
All	33	1,395	3,437	4,592	5,368	6,904	8,653	11,785	12,536	12,536	19,854	12,571	9,361	9,121	9,086	127,234
Female	7	175	475	692	825	936	1,054	1,458	1,358	933	600	432	224	378	524	10,071
Male	27	1,220	2,962	3,901	4,543	5,968	7,599	10,328	11,178	11,604	19,254	12,139	9,137	8,742	8,562	117,163

*\* Retirees are not counted in the VA's veteran data collection. ME estimates between 15,000 and 20,000 retirees.*



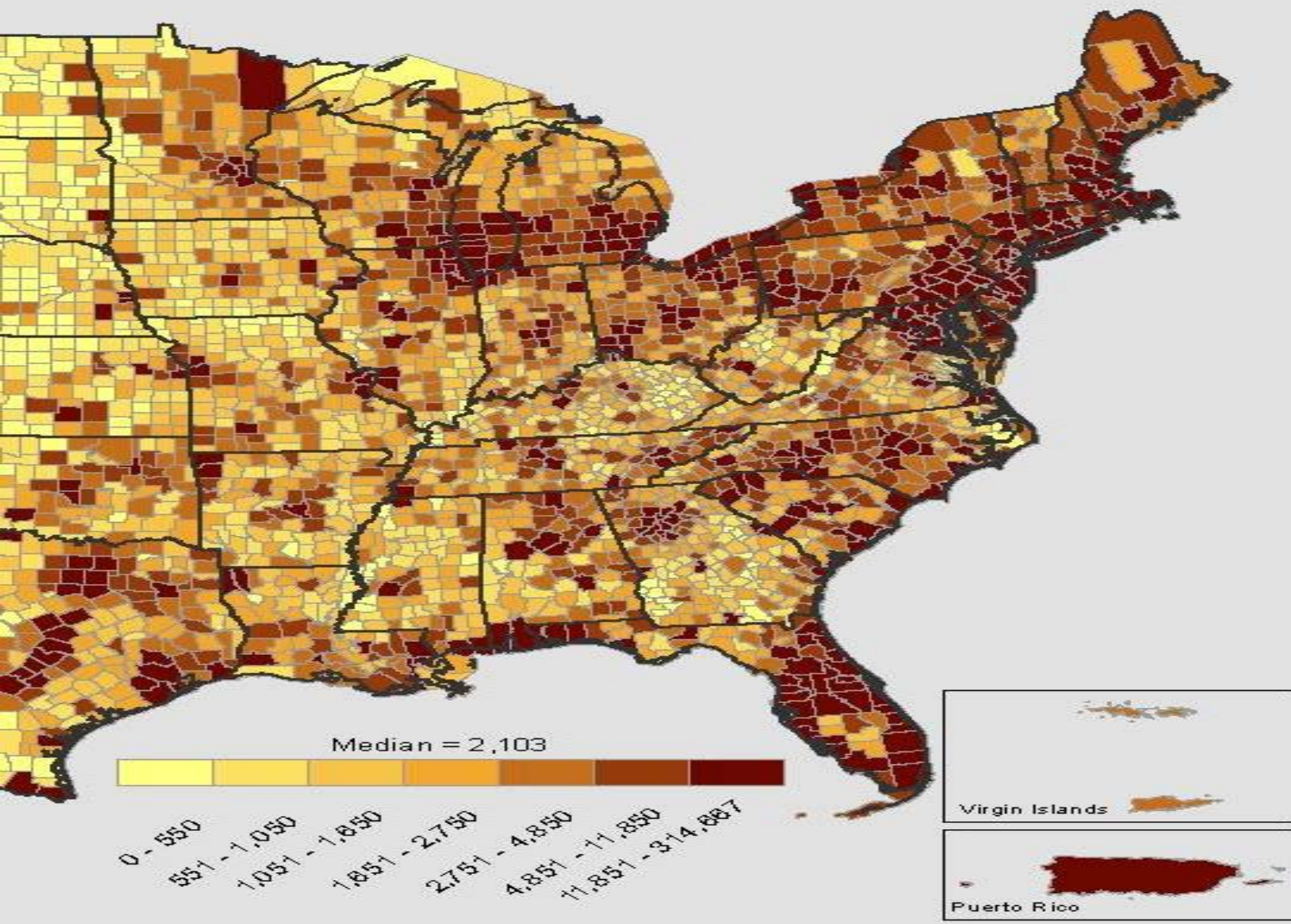
# Veteran Statistics





# Veteran Statistics

by County: Fiscal Year 2015



1. *Cumberland*
2. *York*
3. *Sagadahoc*
4. *Kennebec*
5. *Penobscot*
6. *Aroostook*
7. *Hancock*
8. *Somerset*
9. *Oxford*
10. *Androscoggin*
11. *Washington*
12. *Franklin*
13. *Waldo*
14. *Lincoln*
15. *Knox*
16. *Piscataquis*



# State Benefits

- **Bureau of Veterans' Services, Est. 1947**
- **Maine Veterans' Homes**
- **Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System**
- **Tax exemptions for certain veterans**
- **Free Life Time Day-Use Park Pass**
- **Recreational Licenses**
- **Special License Plates**
- **Veteran Dependent Educational Benefits (VDEB)**
- **Copies of DD-214, Military Discharges**
- **Free Representation by VSOs for Claims/Enrollment**

Bureau Office	Location	Function / Point of Contact
Caribou	Northern Maine Veterans' Cemetery	VSO / Christopher Haskell VSA / Heather Curry-Greene
Bangor	VA CBOC	VSO / Don Dare VSA / Tracy Kinney
Machias	Town Office	VSO / <b>Jack Norton*</b> VSA / Lynette Ramsey
Waterville	National Guard Armory	VSO / Conrad Edwards VSA / Julie Roberts
Augusta	Camp Keyes	Main Office / Adria Horn, Tracy Brackett, <b>Vacant, RVCP Vacant</b>
	Togus VAMC	Claims Supervisor / Maurice Lizotte VSO / <b>Jack Norton*</b> Office Manager/ Jaime Robichaud VSA / Amanda Worth
Lewiston	Lewiston Vet Center	VSO / Jerry Smith VSA / <b>Vacant</b>
Portland	State Office Bldg (JetPort)	VSO / Matt Haley VSA / <b>Vacant</b> RVCP / Carolynn Taylor (RVCP)
Springvale	Sanford Vet Center	VSO / <b>Vacant</b> VSA / Christine Pratt



# Bureau Locations, MVMCS

Bureau Office	Location	Function / Point of Contact
Caribou	Northern Maine Veterans' Cemetery	Supervisor / Jody Smith
Augusta	Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, Civic Center Drive	Supervisor / Paul Bourque
Augusta	Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, Mount Vernon Road	Supervisor / Paul Bourque
Springvale	Southern Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery	Supervisor / Chris Kamperman

**MVMCS Superintendent – David Richmond**

**MVMCS Administrative Supervisor – Candice Wright**

**MVMCS Administrative Asst – Tammy Harrington**

**MVMCS Administrative Asst – Scott Brown**

**\*Open Positions: Deputy Director / Outreach Specialist**



# Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System

- **Civic Center Drive, Augusta – Opened 1970**
  - 166 Acres with 20,169 Plots (Opened to new Niche Wall burials 2010)
  - 15,627 Plots filled with 2,631 Reservations
- **Mount Vernon Road, Augusta – Opened 2001**
  - 98 Acres with 35,000 Plots
  - 6,103 Plots filled with 2,254 Reservations
  - New VA Grant to create double-depth crypts
- **Caribou – Opened 2003**
  - 33 Acres with 8,932 Plots
  - 756 Plots filled with 377 Reservations
  - New VA Grant to create Niche Walls
  - New VA Grant to create double-depth crypts
- **Springvale – Opened October 2010**
  - 88.5 Acres with 5,000 Plots (Phase 1)
  - Phase II Admin Building / Niche Wall Complete 2012
  - 603 Plots filled with 276 Reservations
  - New VA Grant to create double-depth crypts
- **Certificates of Eligibility – 12,890**



## MAINE VETERANS' HOMES

*caring for those who served*

Maine legislation created Maine Veterans' Homes in July 1977 as a public, not-for-profit organization. Our first Home was opened March 1983 in Augusta. Today, we have six Homes, with a total of 640 beds, located throughout the state. The Homes are recognized for their [modern amenities](#), [exceptional programs](#) and [full continuum of care](#).

To qualify for admission, the applicant must be an honorably discharged veteran who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces and must either be a resident of Maine at the time of application, or have resided in Maine at the time of entry into the United States Armed Forces. Spouses, widows, widowers, and Gold Star parents of eligible veterans may also be eligible for admission. Gold Star parents are parents of a son or a daughter killed in the line of duty.

Maine Veterans' Homes provide the following care:

### Medical Services

Skilled Nursing Care  
Respite Care  
Residential Care  
Dementia Care

Long-Term Care  
Comfort Care

### Rehabilitative Services

Speech-Language Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Physical Therapy

Augusta Maine Veterans Home (150 beds)  
310 Cony Road  
Augusta, ME 04330  
207-622-2454

Bangor Maine Veterans Home (150 beds)  
44 Hogan Road  
Bangor, ME 04401  
207-942-2333

Caribou Maine Veterans Home (70 beds)  
163 Van Buren Road  
Caribou, ME 04736  
207-498-6074

Machias Maine Veterans Home (30 beds)  
32 Veterans Drive  
Machias, ME 04654  
207-255-0162

Scarborough Maine Veterans Home (150 beds)  
290 US Route 1  
Scarborough, ME 04074  
207) 883-7184

So. Paris Maine Veterans Home (90 beds)  
477 High Street  
South Paris, ME 04281  
207-743-6300



# Some Veteran Facilities / Resources

## Medical/Mental Health

1. VA Medical Center, Togus  
Augusta, ME
2. Community Based Out Patient Clinics (CBOCs)
  - Saco            - Lewiston   - Caribou   - Rumford
  - Portland   - Bangor       - Calais       - Bingham (P/T)
3. Vet Centers
  - Sanford    - Lewiston   - Caribou
  - Portland
4. VA Fee-for-Service / Choice Card
  - Participating community providers / clinicians

## Homeless/ness Providers

(With specific veteran focus)

1. Preble Street / Oxford Street  
- Portland
2. Veterans Inc  
- Lewiston (Male only)
3. Bread of Life Ministries  
- Augusta
4. Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope  
- Augusta (Will be women only)
5. Maine Housing



# Veteran's Recognition Program





# Veteran's Recognition

## Certificates of Appreciation for Wartime Service

**World War II**

December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946

**Korea**

June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**Vietnam**

February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975

**Cold War**

January 1, 1947 – August 2, 1990

**Persian Gulf**

August 2, 1990- Present

**Women Veterans**





*Certificate of Appreciation*  
*from*  
*The Citizens of Maine*  
*to*

*LT(JG) Neil B. Taylor*

*In recognition of your honorable service during the Vietnam War in the Armed Forces of our country. WE the CITIZENS of the STATE OF MAINE, express our sincere appreciation of your sacrifice, courage, and willingness to serve our great state and nation. WE are proud of you and thank you for your contribution to the defense of FREEDOM.*

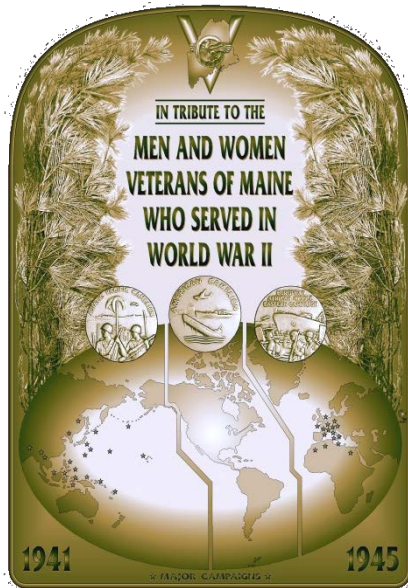


*Paul R. LePage*  
Governor of Maine

*David F. Beldin*  
Acting Adjutant General



# Wartime Plaques, Hall of Flags



World War II



Korea



Vietnam

**Wartime Certificates of Appreciation for WW II, Korea, and Vietnam have the likeness of the plaques on them**



# Women Veterans Plaque



A special silver coin that matches the plaque is presented to all Maine Women Veterans along with appropriate certificates of service.



# Veteran / Gold Star Family

## State Honorable Service Medals





# The Way Ahead

- **Update and upgrade Bureau Website**
  - **Endstate: One-stop point of entry for Maine Veterans, Family Members, Veteran Groups, and Veteran Stakeholders**
  - **Blog Capability / What's New / E-Newsletter / Social Media / Video Links**
- **Add case-management technology to provide holistic veterans' services and track provided benefits/communication**
- **Tightly integrate Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System with state/federal benefits**
- **Provide Veteran advocacy, outreach, and community/stakeholder integration for Employment, Mental Health, Education, Homelessness, and Legacy of Service**
- **Increase Marketing and Bureau visibility: Stop, "I didn't know you existed."**



# The Way Ahead

- **Meet National Shrine Standards for Four Veteran Memorial Cemeteries**
- **Continue to recognize the service and sacrifice of Maine veterans**
  - Institute quarterly programs
- **Veterans Legacy Project – build on what historians and advocates are already doing...**
- **Be a Known Leader in Maine for Veterans' needs and resources**



# Sources

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- **National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics:**  
**[http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Quick\\_Facts.asp](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Quick_Facts.asp)**



**Questions?**